Claim Amendments:

Please amend the claims as indicated:

1. (Amended) A method for synchronizing to a transport stream, the method comprising:
receiving a transport stream having an unknown set of transport characteristics;
initializing a transport stream acquisition routine for ~~; and~~ identifying the set of transport characteristics that will allow synchronization to the transport stream.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ identifying the set of transport characteristics includes identifying the set of transport characteristics in less than 10 seconds.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~the step of~~ identifying the set of transport characteristics includes identifying the set of transport characteristics in less than approximately 2 seconds.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ initializing the transport stream acquisition routine includes initializing the transport stream acquisition routine based upon a manually initiated request.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ initializing further includes the substeps of:
determining when no transport stream has been acquired, and in response periodically initializing a transport stream acquisition request; and
~~the step of~~ wherein initializing the transport stream acquisition routine includes initializing the transport stream acquisition routine based upon the transport stream acquisition request.

6. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ initializing includes periodically initializing the transport stream acquisition routine of the transport stream until the set of transport characteristics has been identified.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ identifying the set of transport characteristics includes identifying the set of transport characteristics and determining if a lock has been established with the transport stream.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the unknown set of transport characteristics includes a bit ordering of a portion of data, wherein the transport stream includes a plurality of portions of data.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein a portion of data is 8 bits of data, and the bit ordering is one of the first bit of 8 bits of data being the most significant bit, or the last bit of the 8 bits of data being the most significant bit.

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10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the unknown set of transport characteristics includes a latching edge of a clock signal used to sample the transport stream.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the unknown set of transport characteristics includes a polarity of a active logic level of an error signal transmitted as part of the transport stream.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the unknown set of transport characteristics includes a polarity of a transport packet start signal transmitted as part of the transport stream.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the unknown set of transport characteristics includes a polarity of a transport packet valid signal transmitted as part of the transport stream.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ identifying the set of transport characteristics includes the substep determining if the framer is locked to the transport stream.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the framer is locked to the transport stream if a predefined number of packets with a predefined start code are received.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the predefined number of packets are sequentially received.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the predefined number of packets are programmable.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the predefined number of packets is stored in a register.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the predefined start code is 47h.

20. (Original) A method for synchronizing to a transport stream, the method comprising

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setting a first transport stream characteristic register to a first value;

setting a second transport stream characteristic register to a second value;

determining if a synchronization indicator is received within a predetermined amount of time;

repeating the step of determining for a predetermined number of times when the synchronization indicator is received, wherein synchronization is successful if a synchronization indicator is received for the predetermined number of times;

changing the first transport stream register to have a third value when the synchronization indicator is not received within the predetermined amount of time, and repeating the steps of determining and repeating;

changing the second transport stream register to have a fourth value when the synchronization indicator is not received within the predetermined amount of time, and repeating the steps of determining and repeating.

21. (New) A method comprising:

receiving a set of signals to provide a transport stream, the set of signals comprising an unknown set of transport characteristics;

initializing a transport stream acquisition routine to identify the set of transport characteristics; and

synchronizing to the transport stream based upon the set of transport stream characteristics;

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein initializing the set of transport characteristics includes identifying the set of transport characteristics in less than 10 seconds.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein initializing the set of transport characteristics includes identifying the set of transport characteristics in less than approximately 2 seconds.

24. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein initializing the transport stream acquisition routine includes initializing the transport stream acquisition routine based upon a manually initiated request.

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25. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein initializing further includes:

determining when no transport stream has been acquired, and in response periodically initializing a transport stream acquisition request ; and

wherein initializing the transport stream acquisition routine includes initializing the transport stream acquisition routine based upon the transport stream acquisition request.

26. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein initializing includes periodically initializing the transport stream acquisition routine of the transport stream until the set of transport characteristics has been identified.

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27. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein initializing the set of transport characteristics includes identifying the set of transport characteristics and determining if a lock has been established with the transport stream.

28. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the unknown set of transport characteristics includes a bit ordering of a portion of data, wherein the transport stream includes a plurality of portions of data.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein a portion of data is 8 bits of data, and the bit ordering is one of the first bit of 8 bits of data being the most significant bit, or the last bit of the 8 bits of data being the most significant bit.

30. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the unknown set of transport characteristics includes a latching edge of a clock signal used to sample the transport stream.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the unknown set of transport characteristics includes a polarity of a active logic level of an error signal transmitted as part of the transport stream.

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32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the unknown set of transport characteristics includes a polarity of a transport packet start signal transmitted as part of the transport stream.

33. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the unknown set of transport characteristics includes a polarity of a transport packet valid signal transmitted as part of the transport stream.

34. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of identifying the set of transport characteristics includes determining if the framer is locked to the transport stream.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the framer is locked to the transport stream if a predefined number of packets with a predefined start code are received.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the predefined number of packets are sequentially received.

37. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the predefined number of packets are programmable.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the predefined number of packets is stored in a register.

39. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the predefined start code is 47h.

40. (New) A method comprising

setting a first register to a first value representing a first transport stream characteristic;

setting a second register to a second value representing a second transport stream characteristic;

determining if a transport stream synchronization indicator is received within a predetermined amount of time;

repeating the step of determining for a predetermined number of times when the transport stream synchronization indicator is received, wherein synchronization is successful if a synchronization indicator is received for the predetermined number of times;

changing the first transport stream register to have a third value when the synchronization indicator is not received within the predetermined amount of time, and repeating the steps of determining and repeating; and

changing the second transport stream register to have a fourth value when the synchronization indicator is not received within the predetermined amount of time, and repeating the steps of determining and repeating.

41. (New) A method comprising:

receiving a set of signals carrying a transport stream, the set of signal comprising a clock signal and a data signal, the clock signal and the data signal having an unknown characteristics;

assuming a set of characteristics to be the unknown characteristics;

receiving a data based upon the assumed set of characteristics;

determining if the data stream is valid transport stream; and

when the transport stream is not valid, assuming as the set of characteristics a different set of characteristics and repeating the steps of receiving the data and determining until a valid transport stream is determined.